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KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

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DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWELVE

The Forgotten Tribe

Part Three of Three

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SPAZ 98

BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

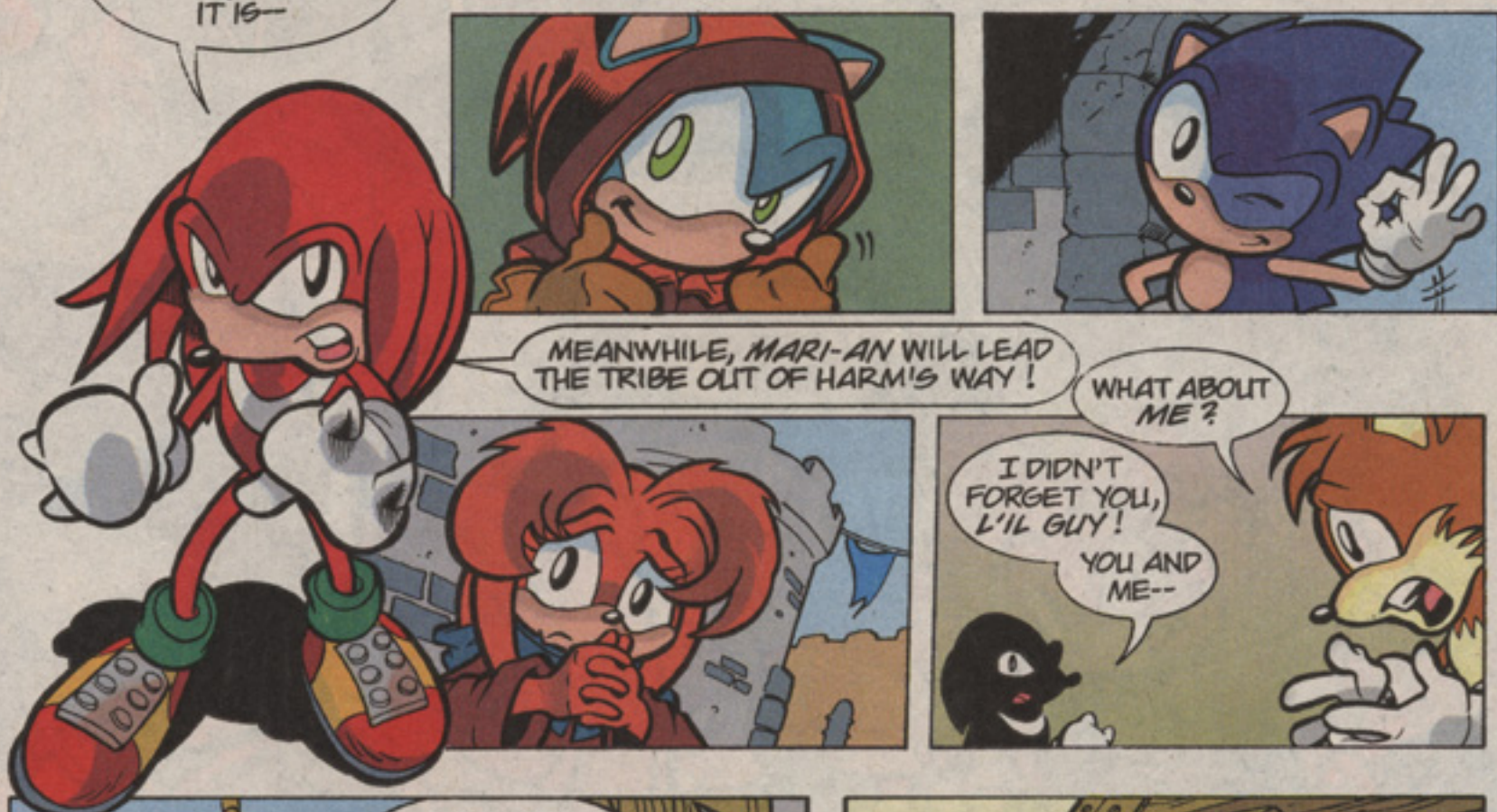
THE STORY THUS FAR...

A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN A COMET ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH ECHIDNAOPOLIS THREATENED DESTRUCTION, THE MAJORITY OF ECHIDNAS AGREED TO A PLAN WHICH RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE FLOATING ISLAND. ANOTHER SMALLER GROUP OF ECHIDNAS, HOWEVER, WISHED TO REMAIN PART OF THE LAND, AND SO TRAVERSED OVER THE FACE OF MOBIUS.

THROUGH THE CENTURIES, DESTINY CALLED UPON LEADERS KNOWN AS MITRES TO SHEPHERD THE TRIBE TO SAFETY. UNTIL RECENTLY, THE ECHIDNA KNOWN AS ATHAIR SERVED AS THE LATEST MITRE UNTIL CALLED UPON TO PERFORM A HIGHER TASK FOR THE ANCIENT WALKERS. NOT WISHING TO ABANDON THE TRIBE WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT, HE SELECTED HIS GREAT-GRANDSON KNUCKLES TO SERVE IN HIS STEAD.

AIDED BY THE DISCIPLE VANAR, KNUCKLES PROCEEDED TO LEAD THE TRIBE TOWARDS THAT WHICH THEY SOUGHT: THE LAND THEIR KIND ORIGINALLY SPRANG FROM. UNFORTUNATELY, ALONG THE WAY, TWO YOUNG ECHIDNA BOYS WANDERED OFF, FORCING KNUCKLES TO SEARCH FOR THEM. DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE TRIBE FELL INTO THE EVIL CLUTCHES OF THE HIGH SHERIFF OF SNOTTINGHAM, WHO PROMPTLY ENSLAVED THEM IN SERVICE OF HIS BIDDING.

DISSATISFIED WITH THE TRIBE'S EFFORTS, THE HIGH SHERIFF IS NOW ABOUT TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF VANAR...



GNUCKLES™ 

JOURNEY'S END

"--RELEASE THE DOOR!"

BULLSEYE!

AS USUAL!

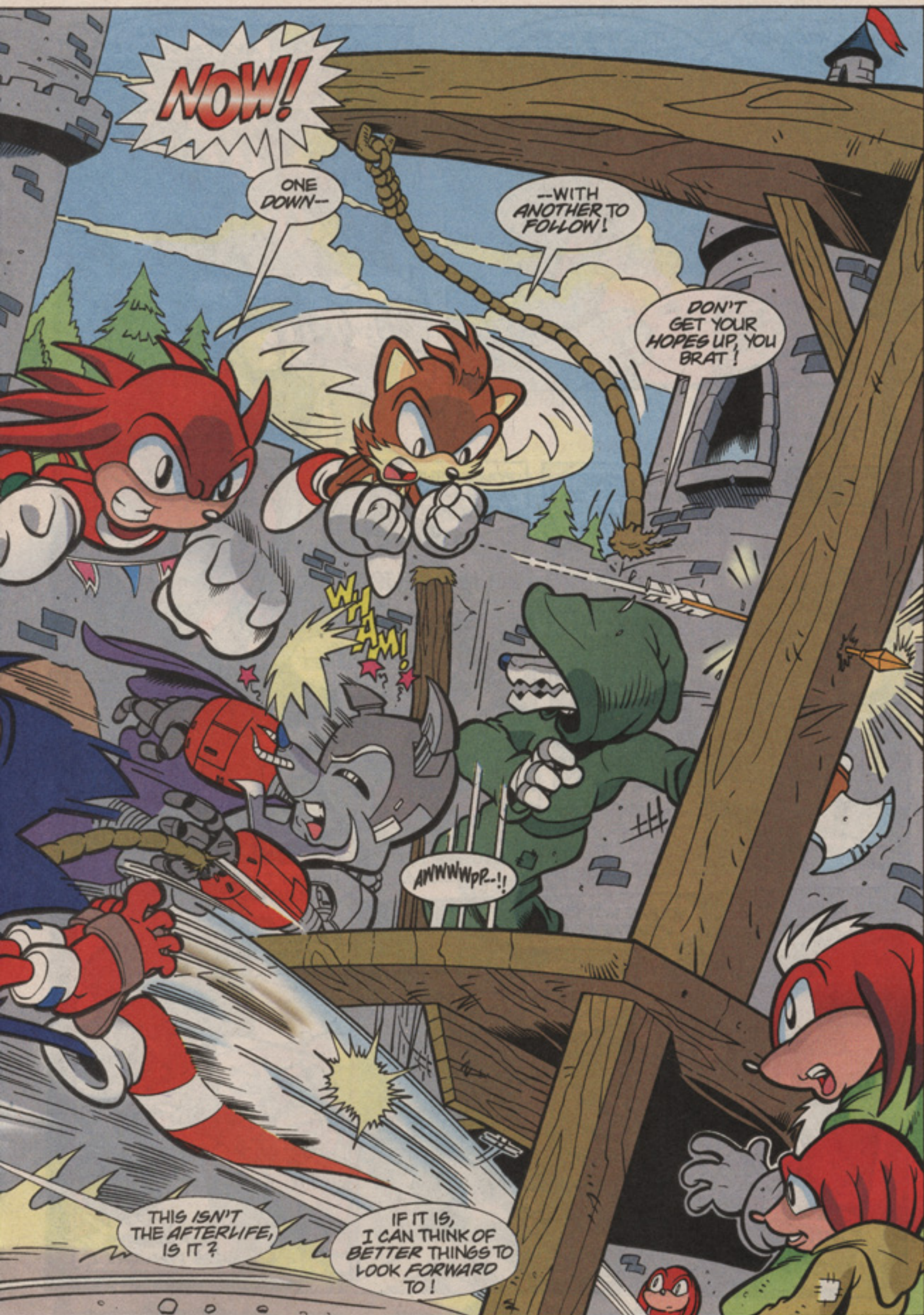
SNAP!

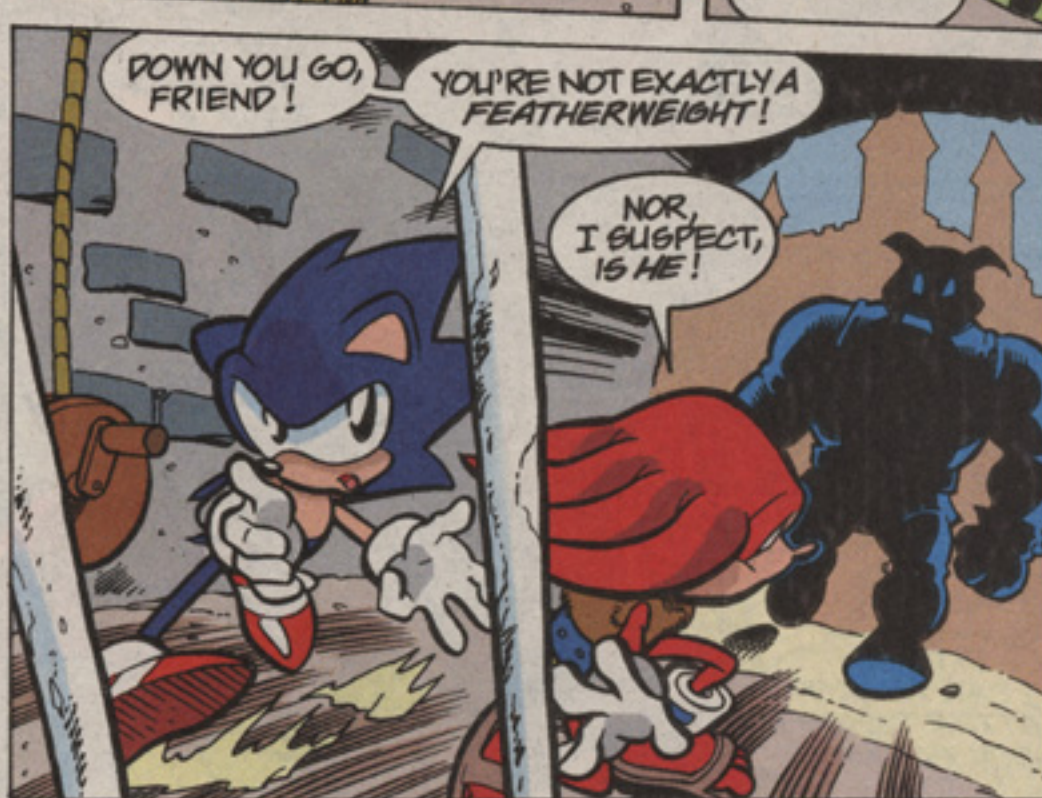
EVERYONE!
FOLLOW ME!

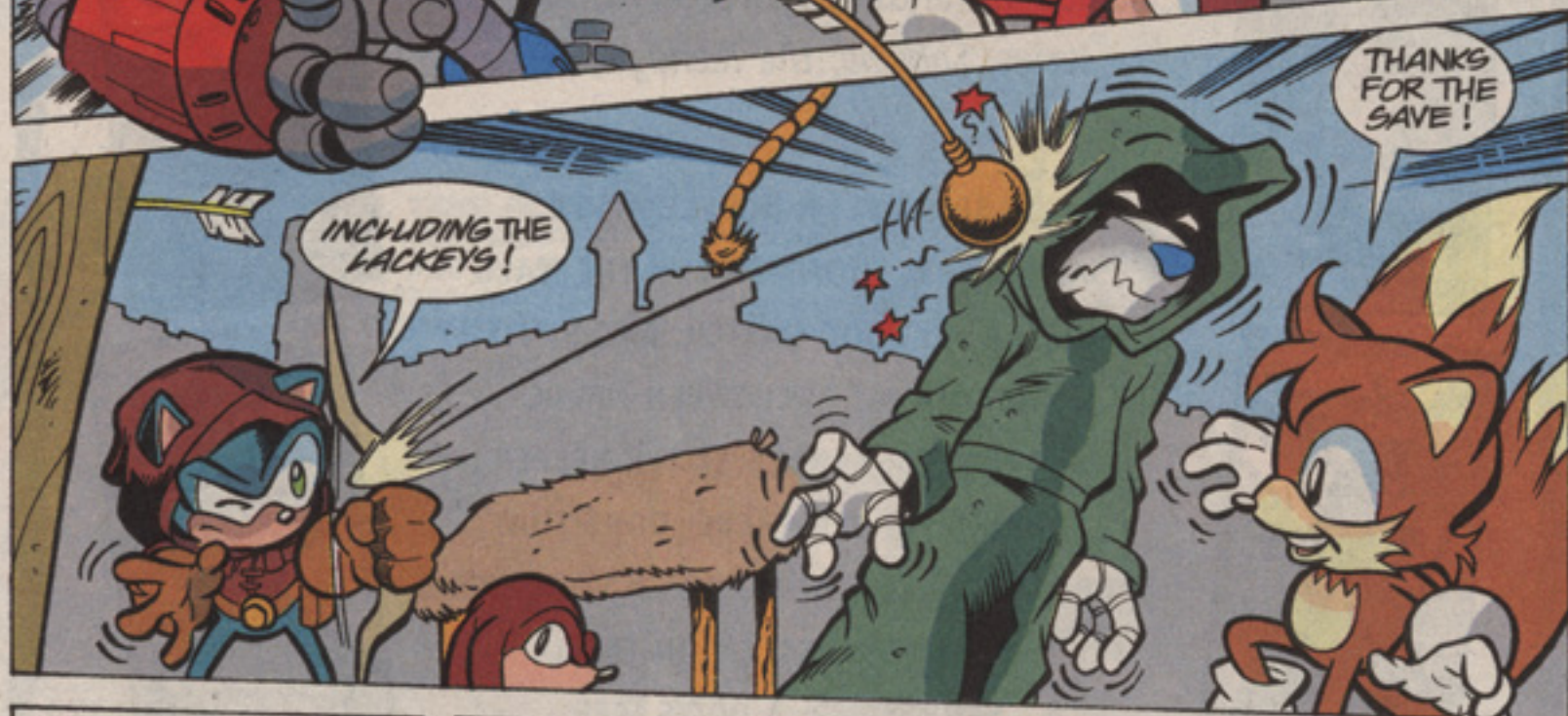
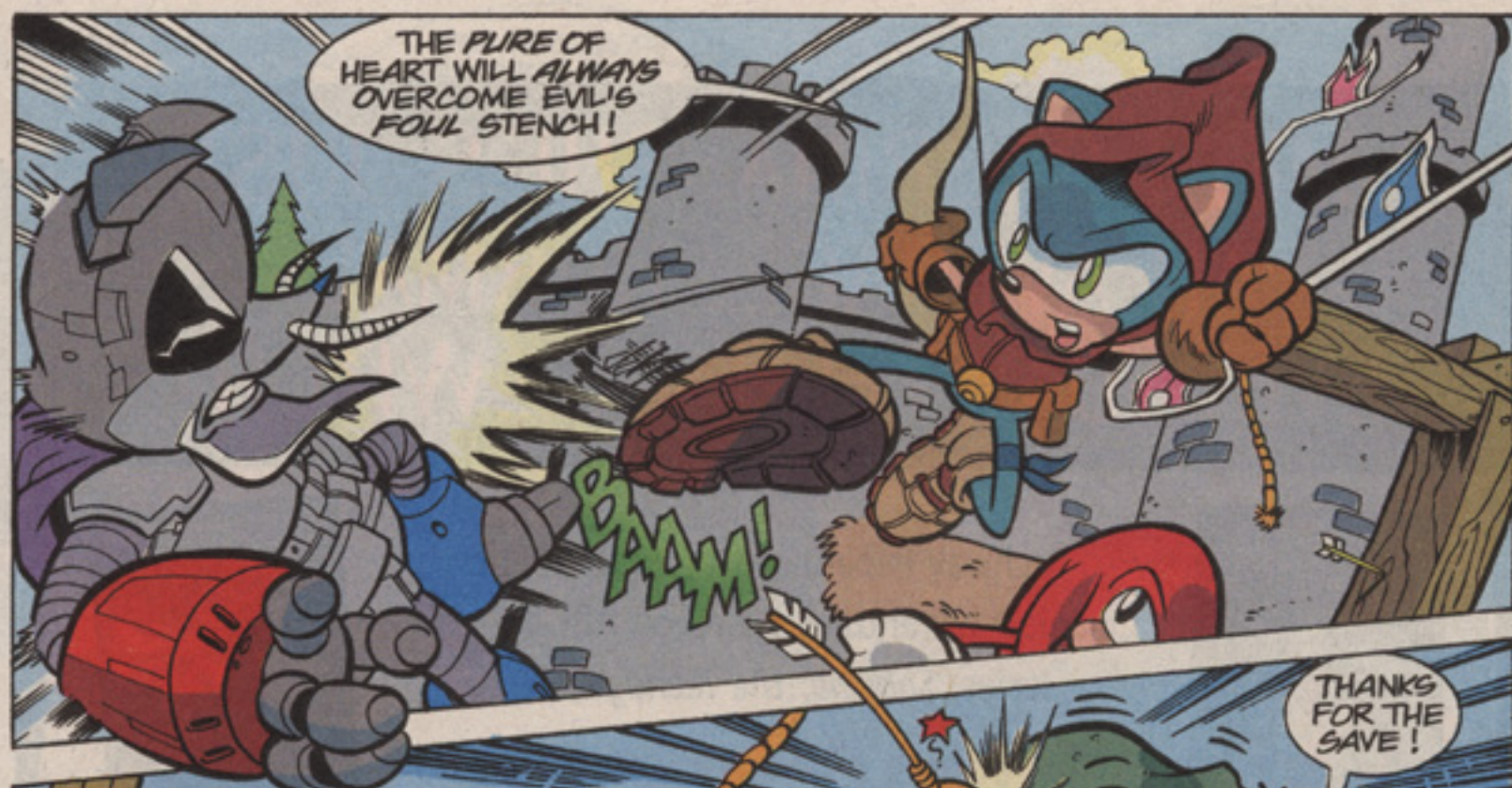
YOU ARE
ALL FREE ONCE
MORE!

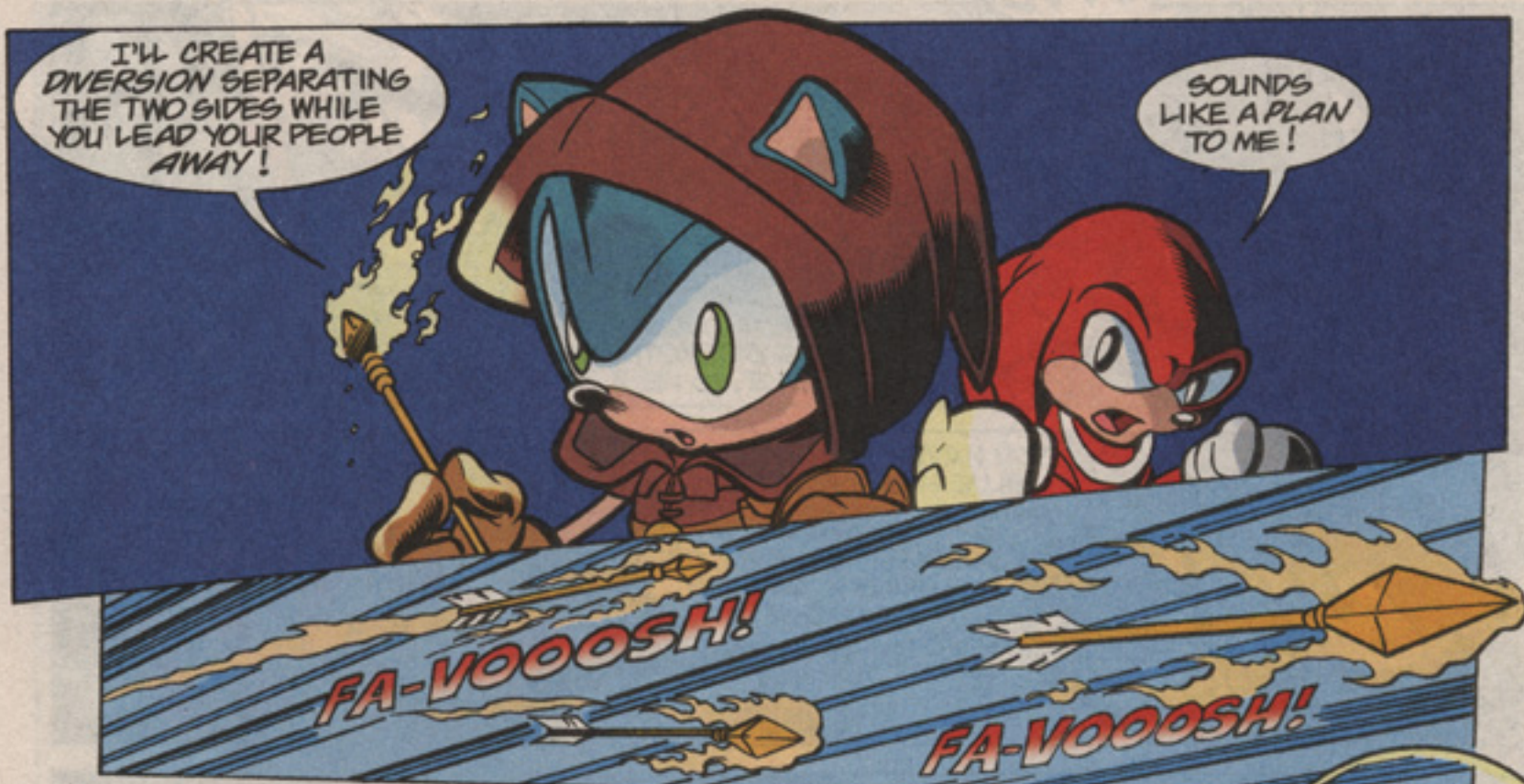
CAN IT
BE--?

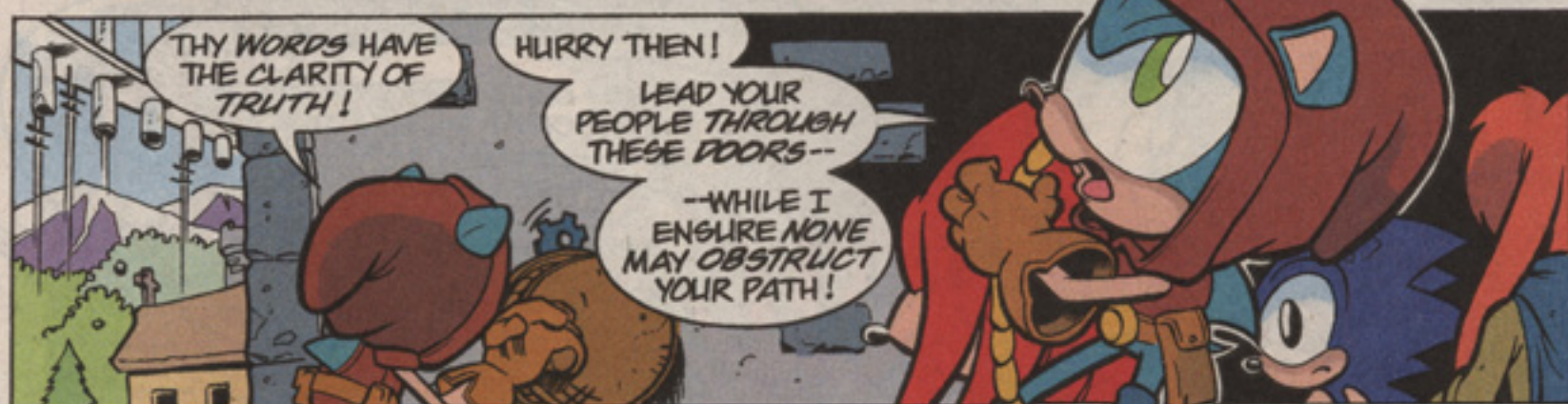
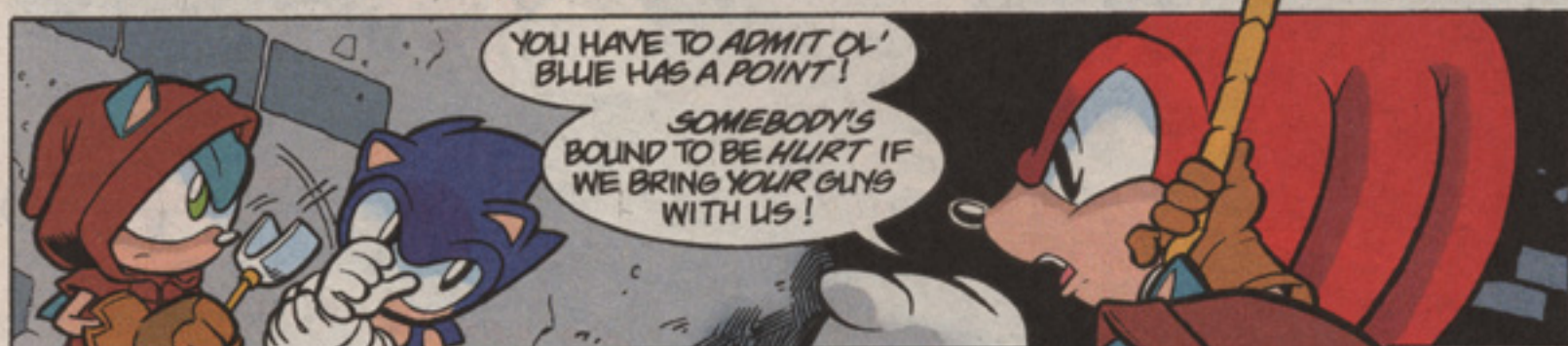
YES!
YES! I TOLD
YOU TO HAVE
FAITH!







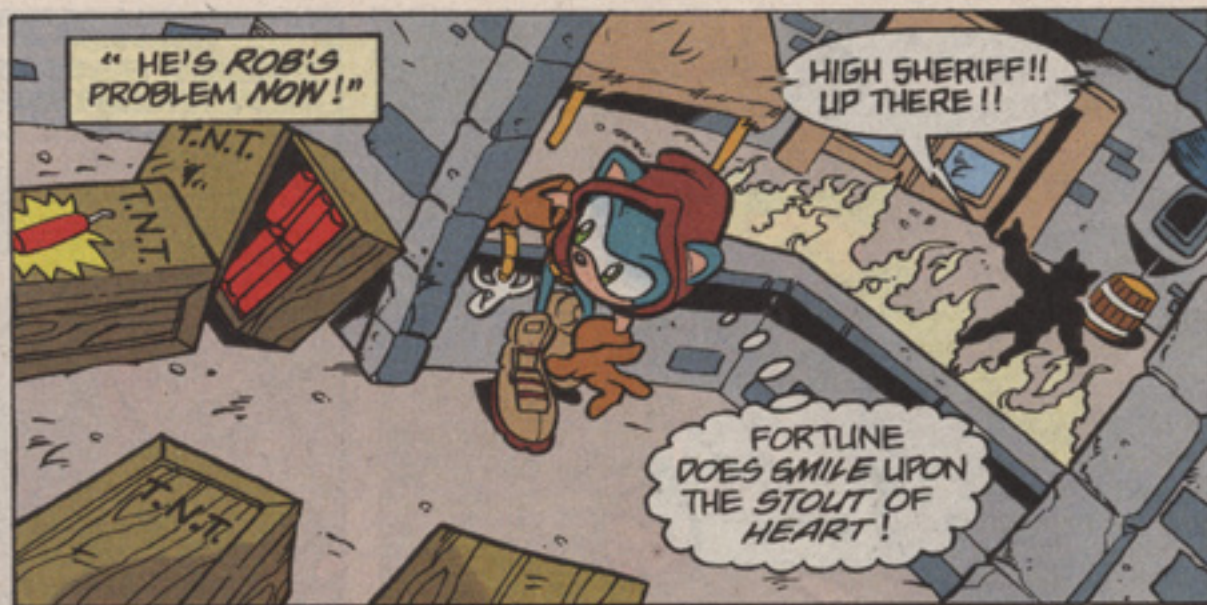






WE
TELL ANTOINE
ZIP!

UNTIL WE
LANDED HERE
WE WERE JUST AS
CLUELESS!



"HE'S ROB'S
PROBLEM NOW!"

HIGH SHERIFF!!
UP THERE!!

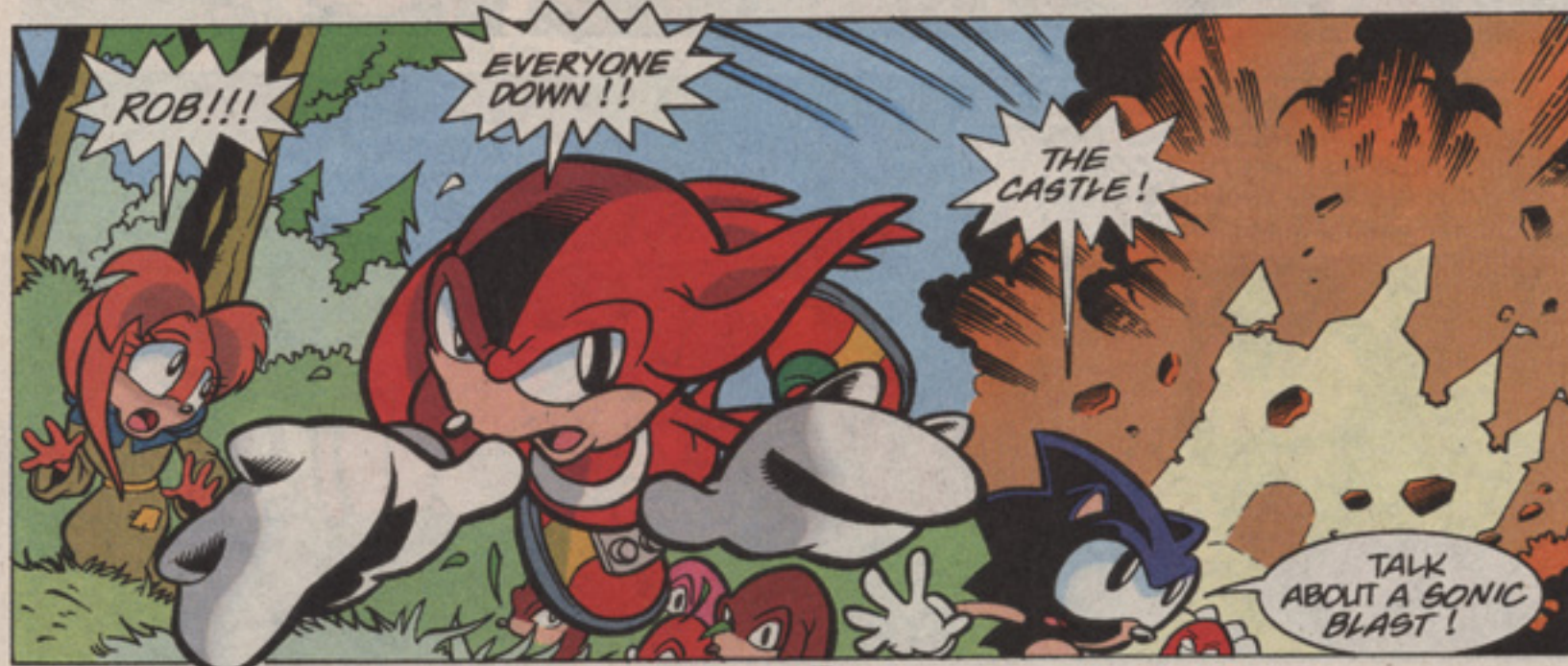
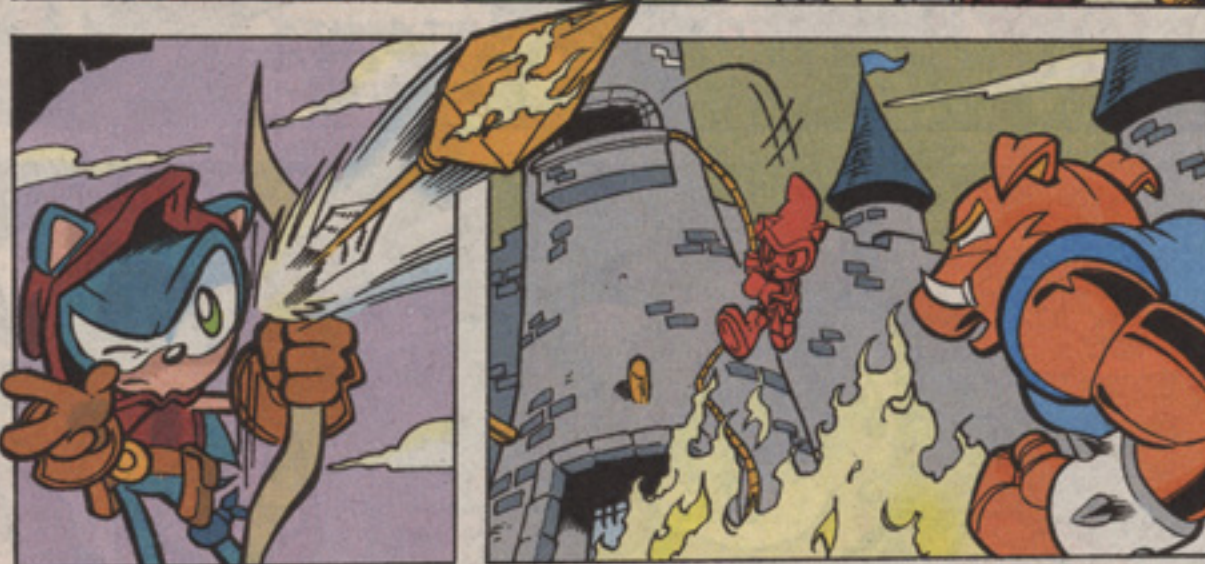
FORTUNE
DOES SMILE UPON
THE STOUT OF
HEART!



GET HIM, MY
ROBOTICIZED
MINIONS!!

GET HIM--

--OR IT'S
CURTAINS!!!



ROB!!!

EVERYONE
DOWN!!

THE
CASTLE!

TALK
ABOUT A SONIC
BLAST!







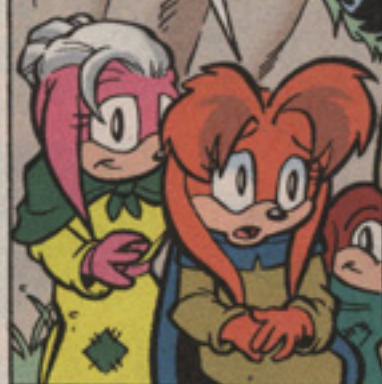
AS LOCKE CONTEMPLATES HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION, HALFWAY AROUND THE FACE OF MOBIUS, OTHERS PONDER THEIRS...

HOW WILL YOU FARE, NOW YOU'RE ALONE, DEAR HEART?

I'M OBLIGED TO AID MY FELLOW CRITTERS, FAIR MARI-AN!

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU AND THE L'IL FELLER, BLUE?

DOESN'T SEEM THE SAME WITHOUT THE GANG!



YEAH, WELL, SAL'S BUSY WITH THE PRINCESS GIG--

--SO TAILS AND I DECIDED TO CHECK THINGS OUT WHILE MOBOTROPOLIS IS BEING REBUILT!*



*CHECK OUT SONIC #57 FOR THE DETAILS -- JUSTIN!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO DROP IN ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

THANKS! THAT MAY BE--

--EH?

SONIC!!



I FOUND THE BI-PLANE!

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!

TIME TO BOOGIE, RED!

BE COOL!

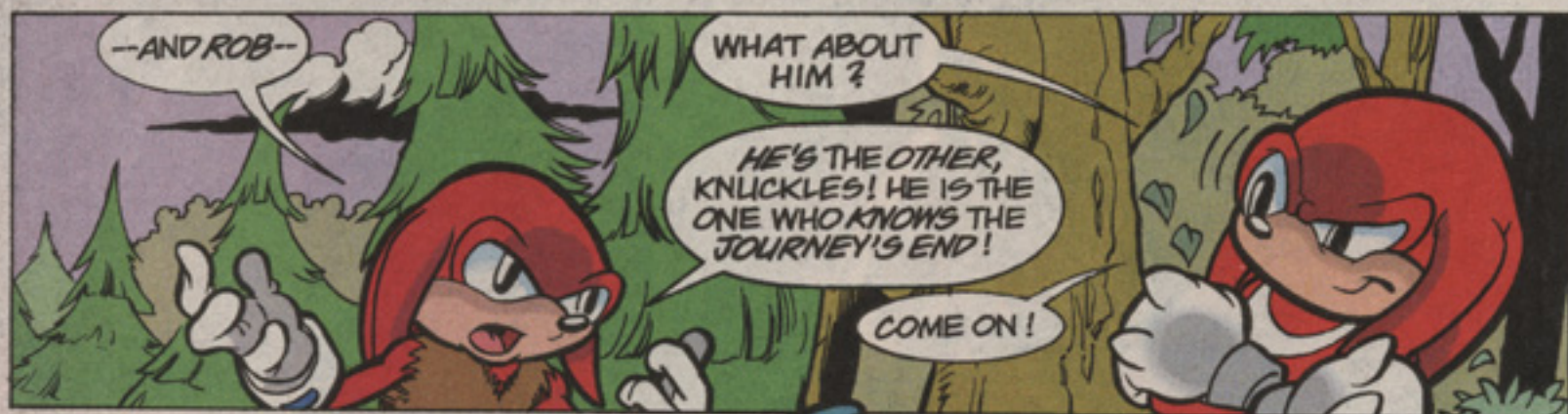
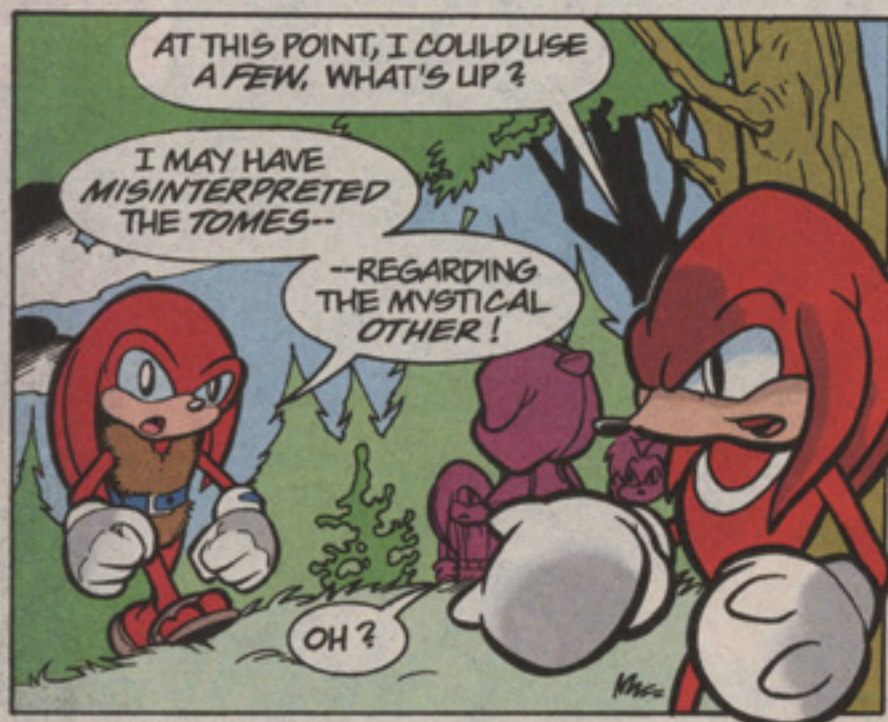


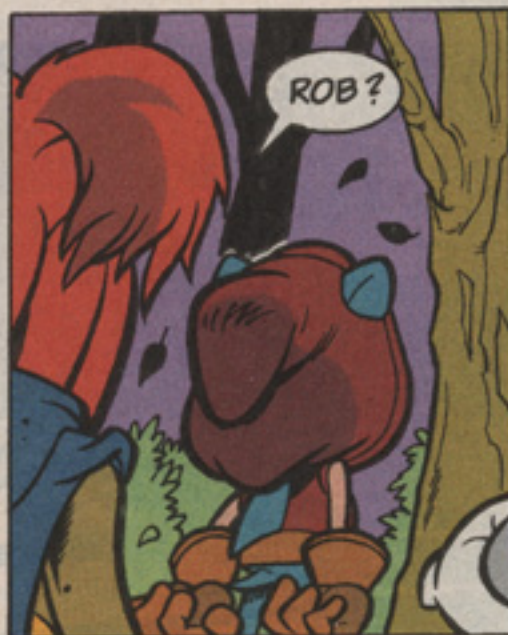
YOU TOO, BLUE!

DON'T BE A STRANGER!

A WORD WITH YOU, IF I MAY, KNUCKLES!





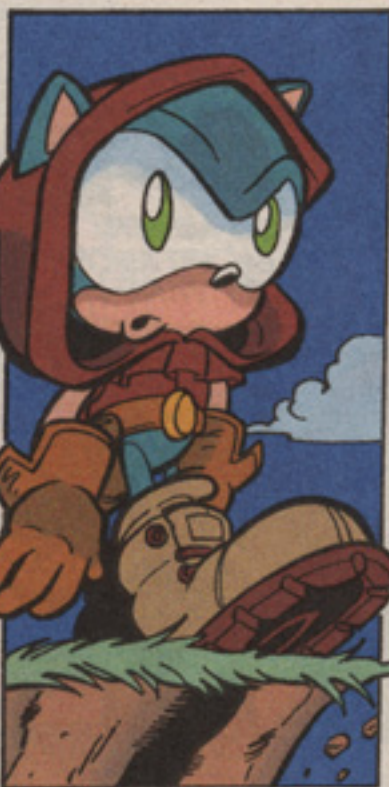




HURRY, KNUCKLES!

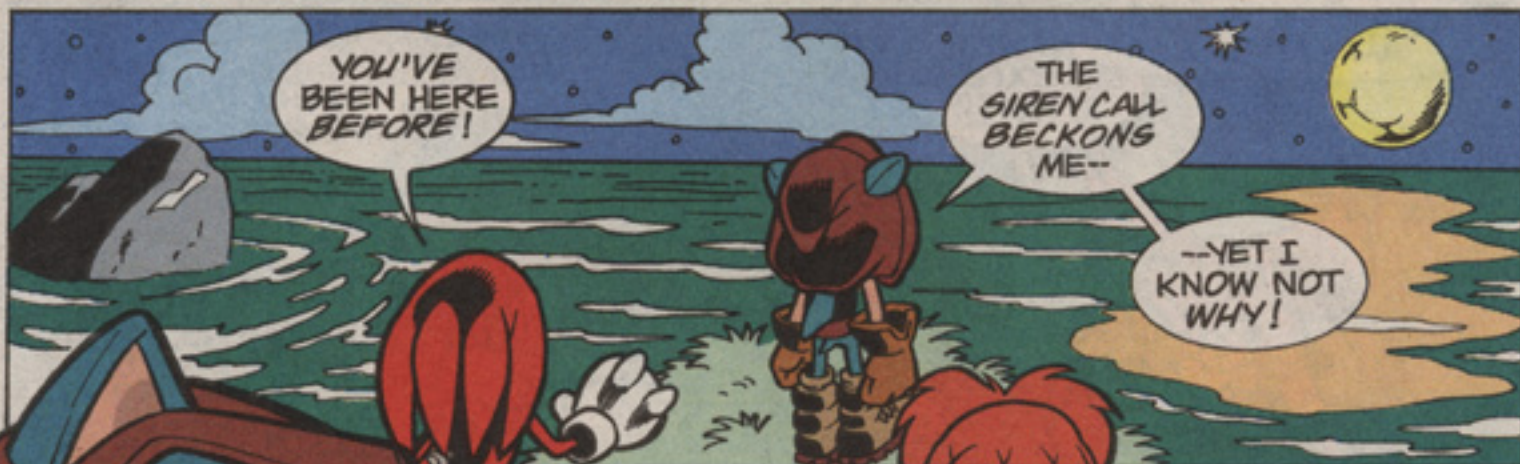
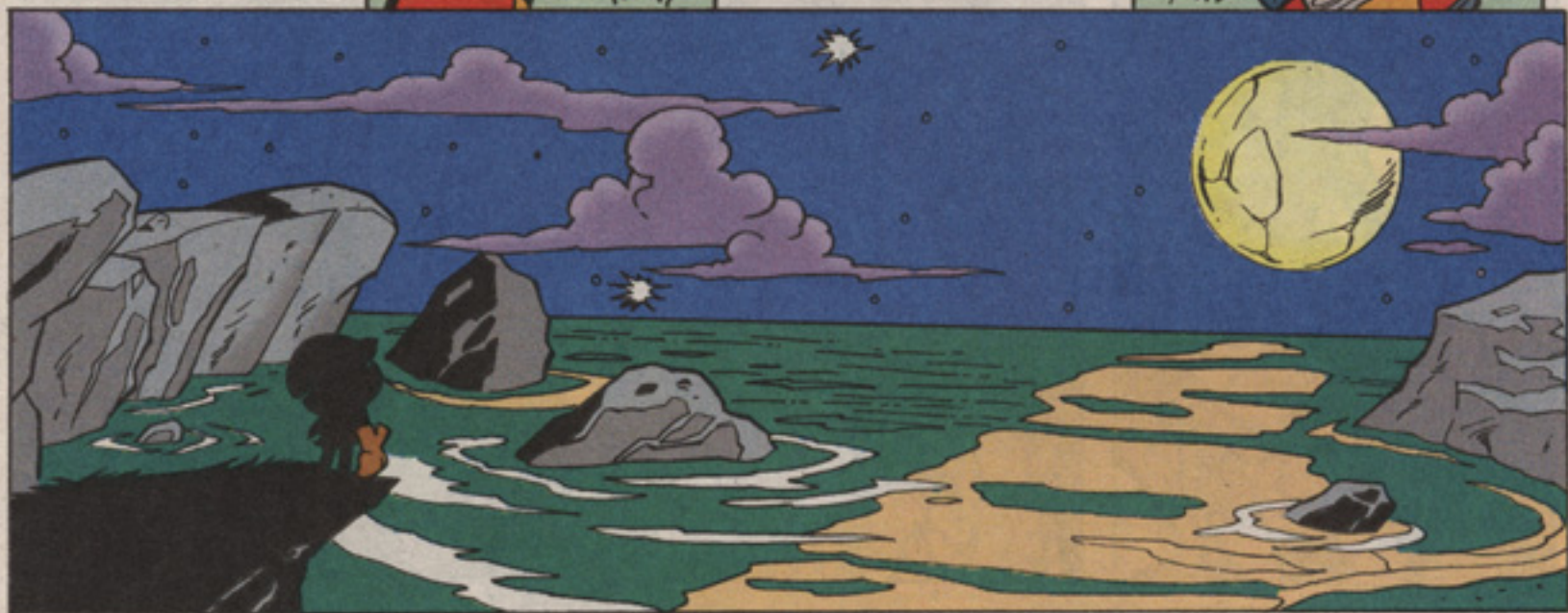


HE'S WALKING TOWARDS THE LEDGE!!



HE'S GOING TO JUMP!! ROB!!!

NO, HE'S NOT!



YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!

THE SIREN CALL BECKONS ME--

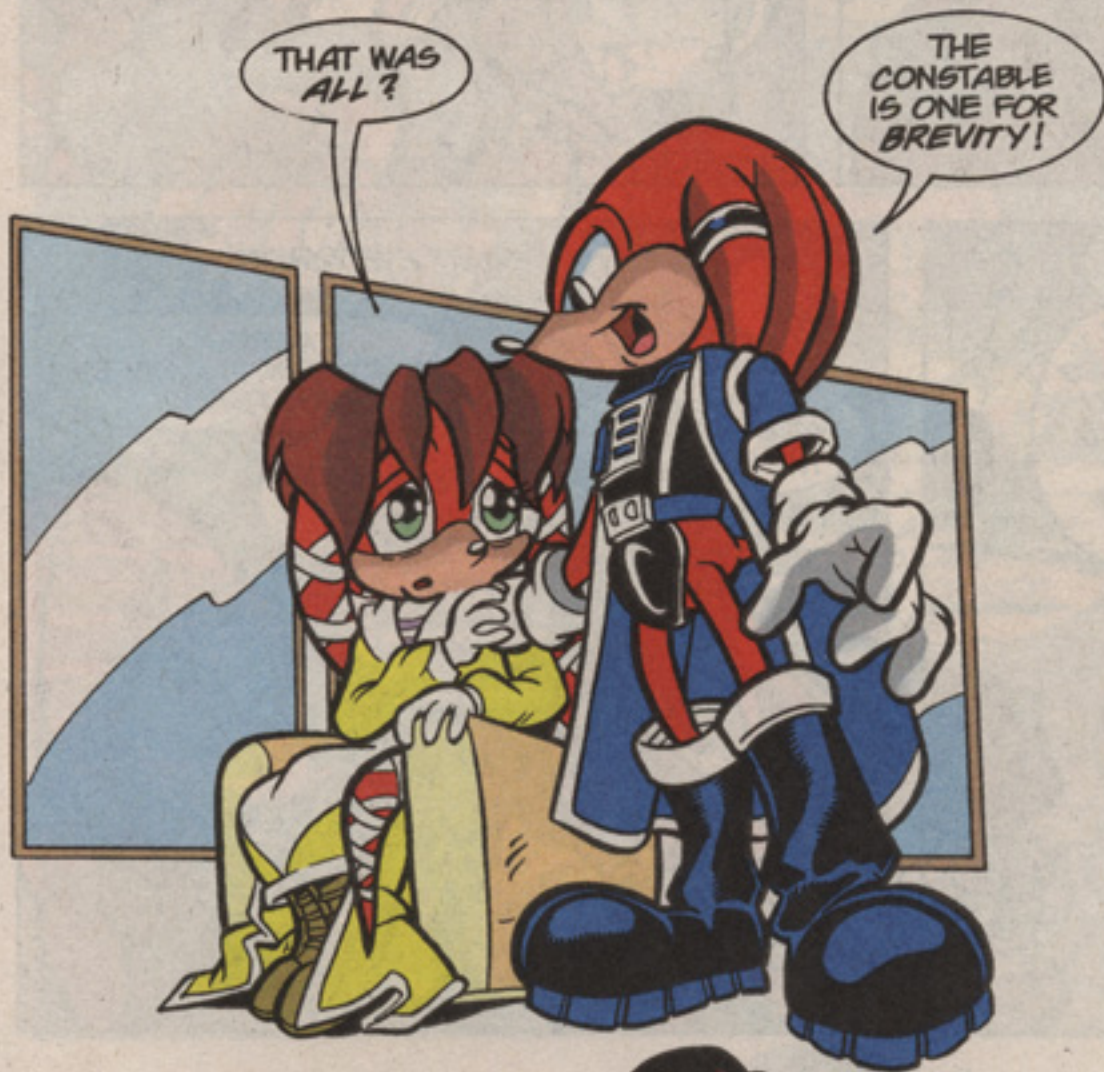
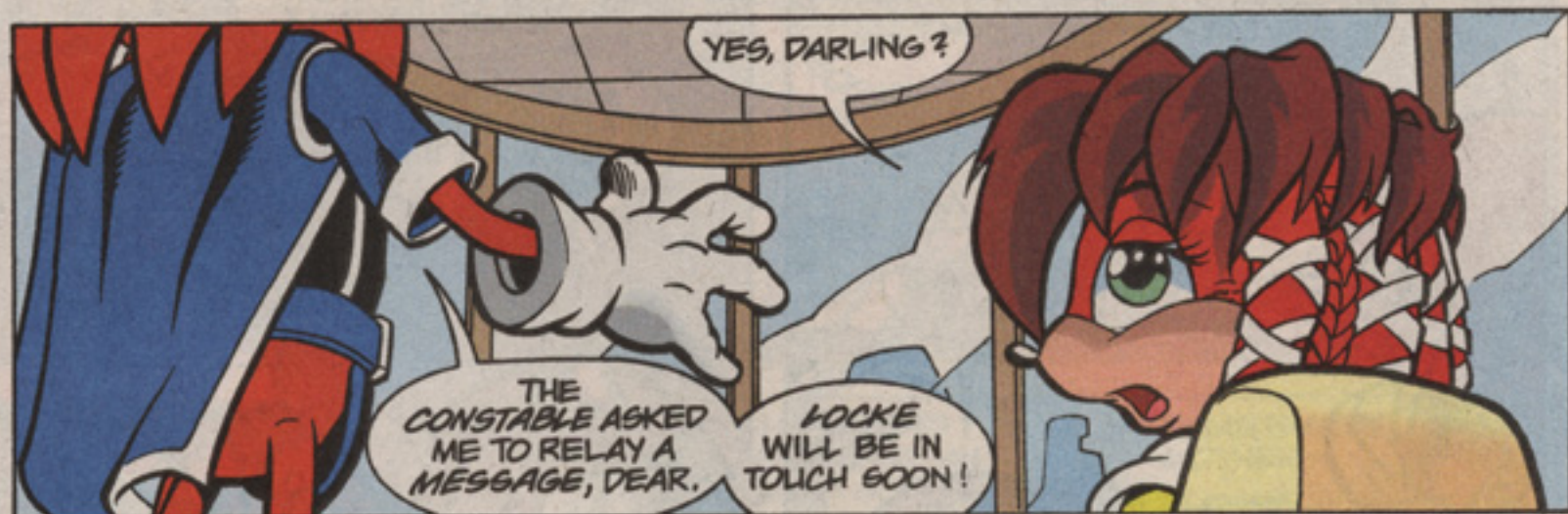
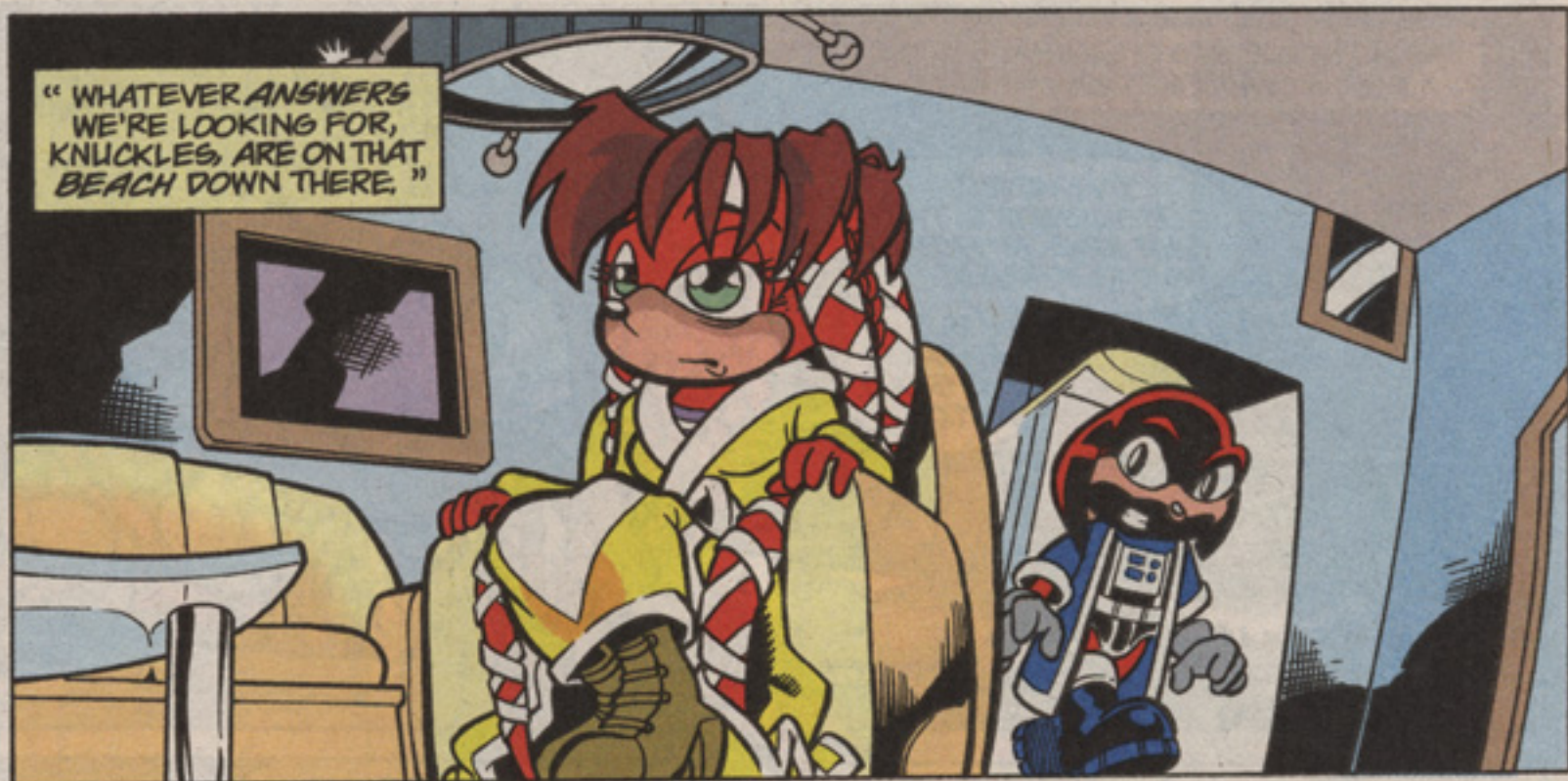
--YET I KNOW NOT WHY!



NEVER HAVE I VENTURED FORTH--

--OUT THERE!

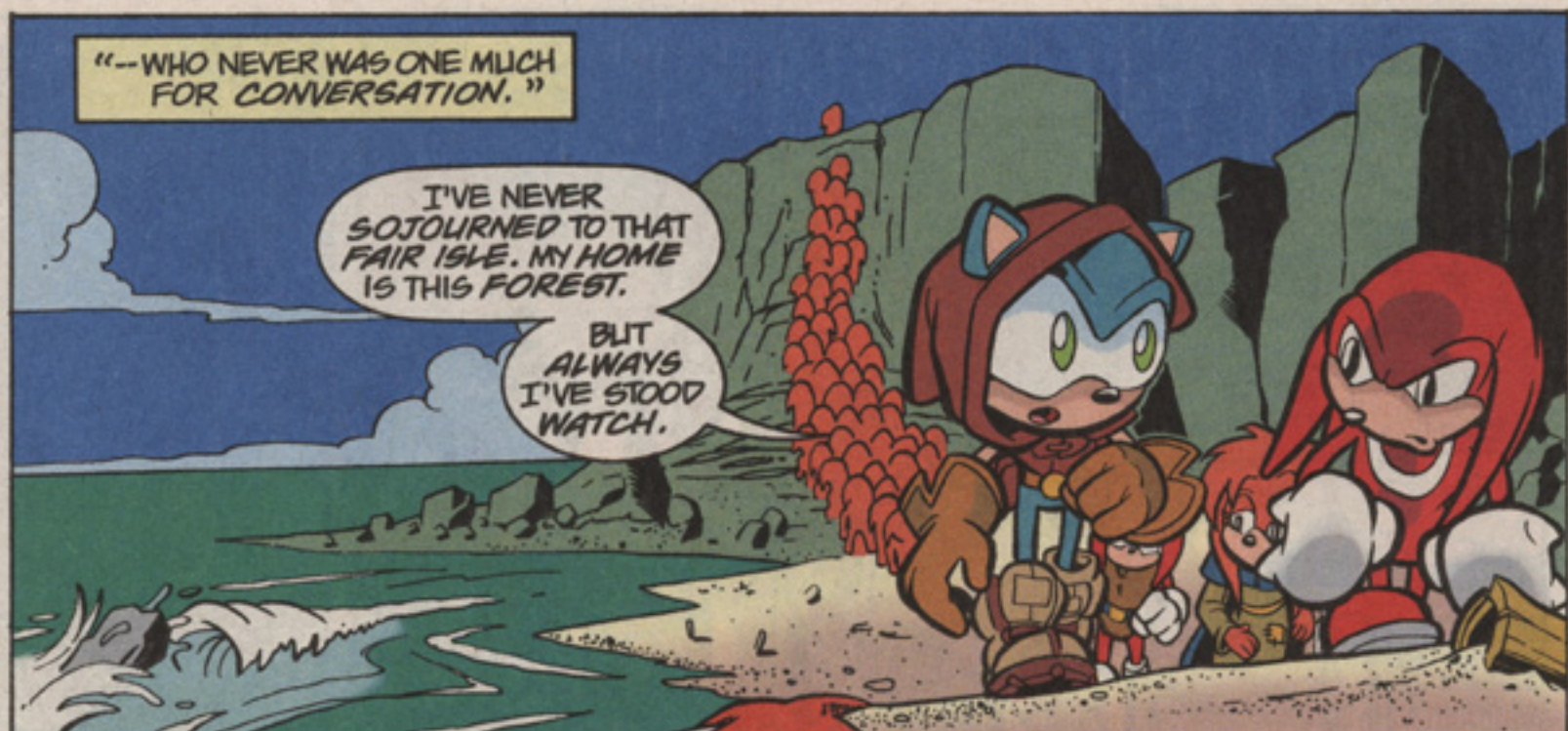
YANAR?



"...WHO NEVER WAS ONE MUCH
FOR CONVERSATION."

I'VE NEVER
SOJOURNED TO THAT
FAIR ISLE. MY HOME
IS THIS FOREST.

BUT
ALWAYS
I'VE STOOD
WATCH.



YOU'RE A
SENTRY?

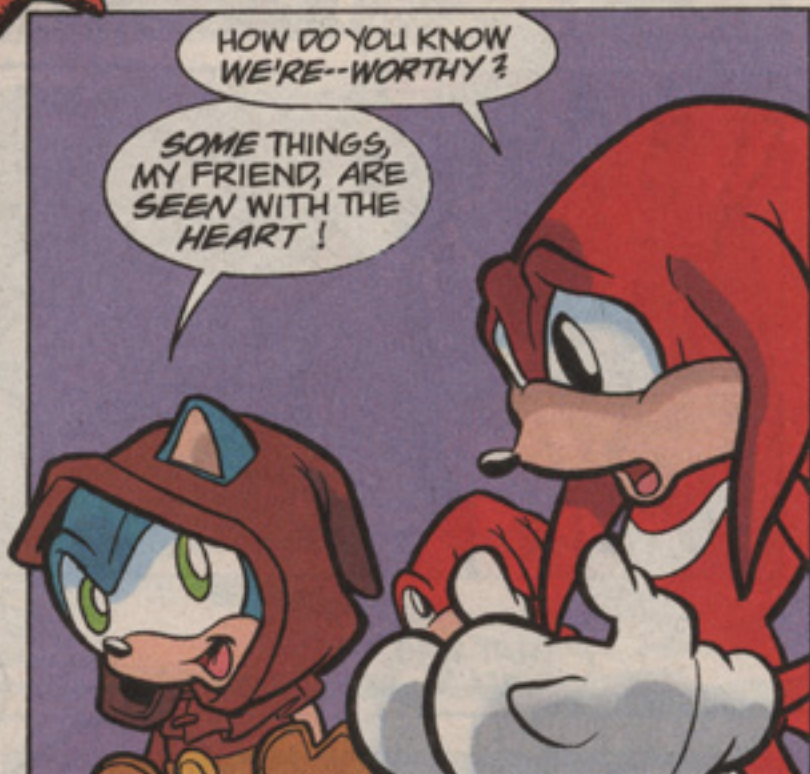
AYE! AND
ONLY RIGHTFUL
SOULS CAN GET
PAST ME!

SUCH ARE
YOU!



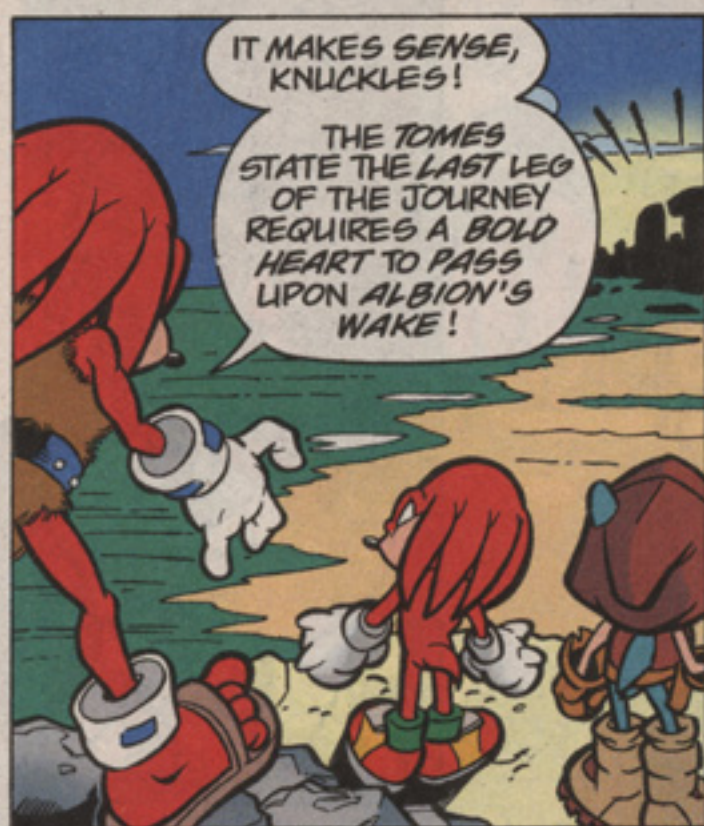
HOW DO YOU KNOW
WE'RE--WORTHY?

SOME THINGS,
MY FRIEND, ARE
SEEN WITH THE
HEART!



IT MAKES SENSE,
KNUCKLES!

THE TONES
STATE THE LAST LEG
OF THE JOURNEY
REQUIRES A BOLD
HEART TO PASS
UPON ALBION'S
WAKE!



I CAN'T EVEN SWIM!

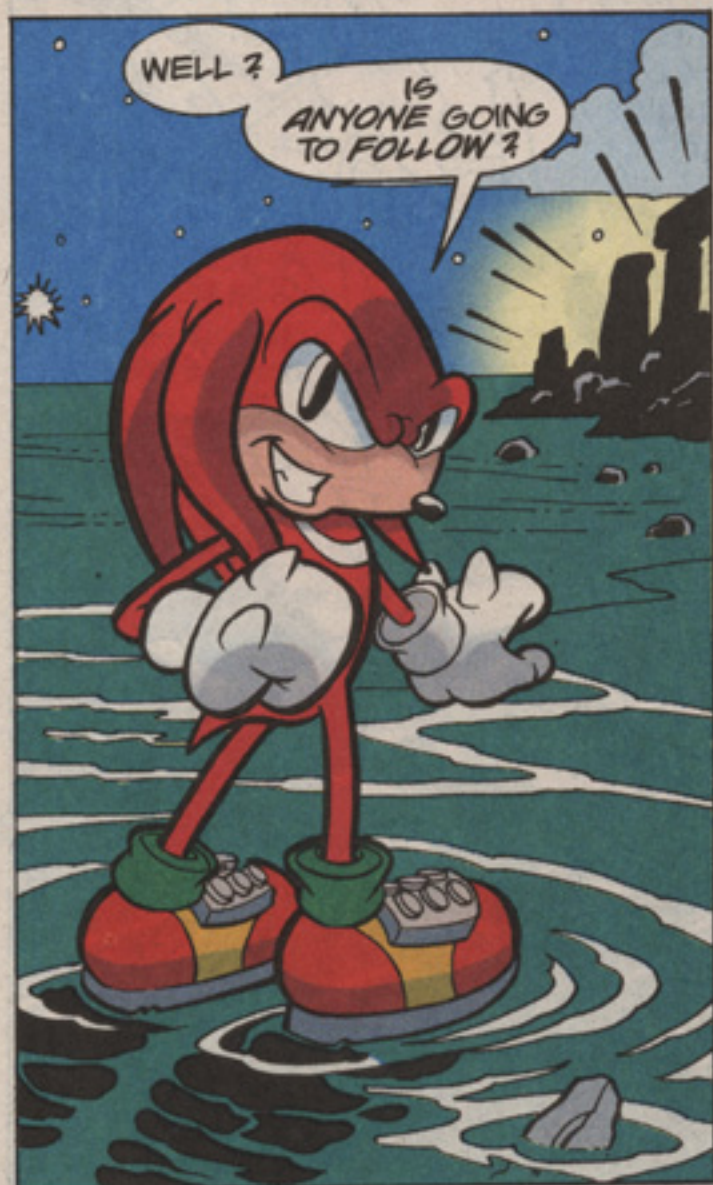
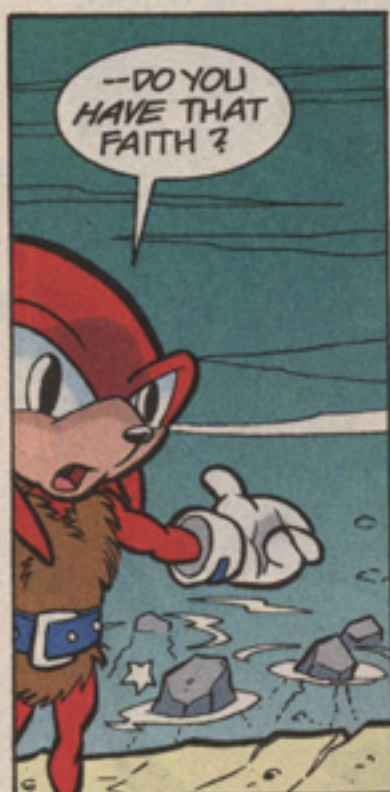
YOU MEAN
WALK ACROSS
THE WATER?

I MERELY
STATE WHAT HAS BEEN
WRITTEN!

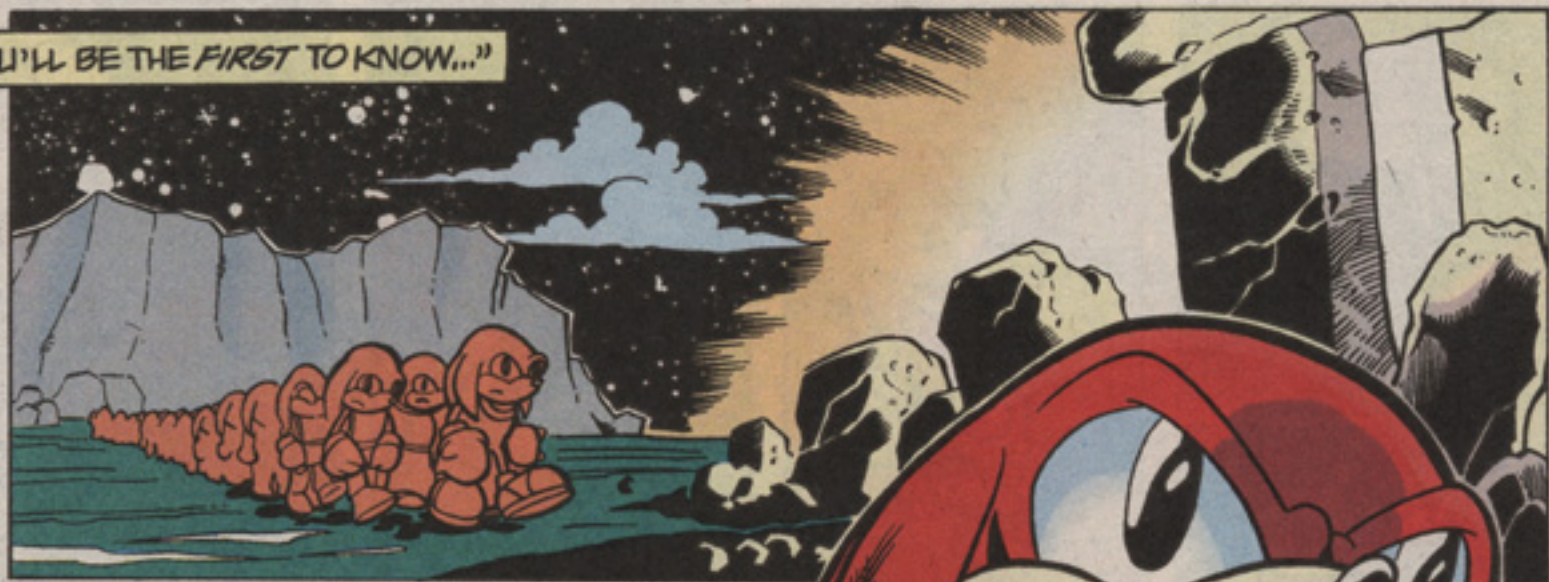
ALL IT
REQUIRES IS
A LEAP OF
FAITH!

THE
QUESTION
IS--





"YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW..."



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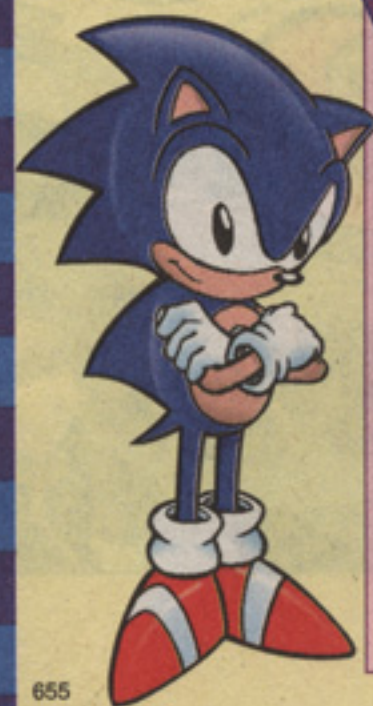
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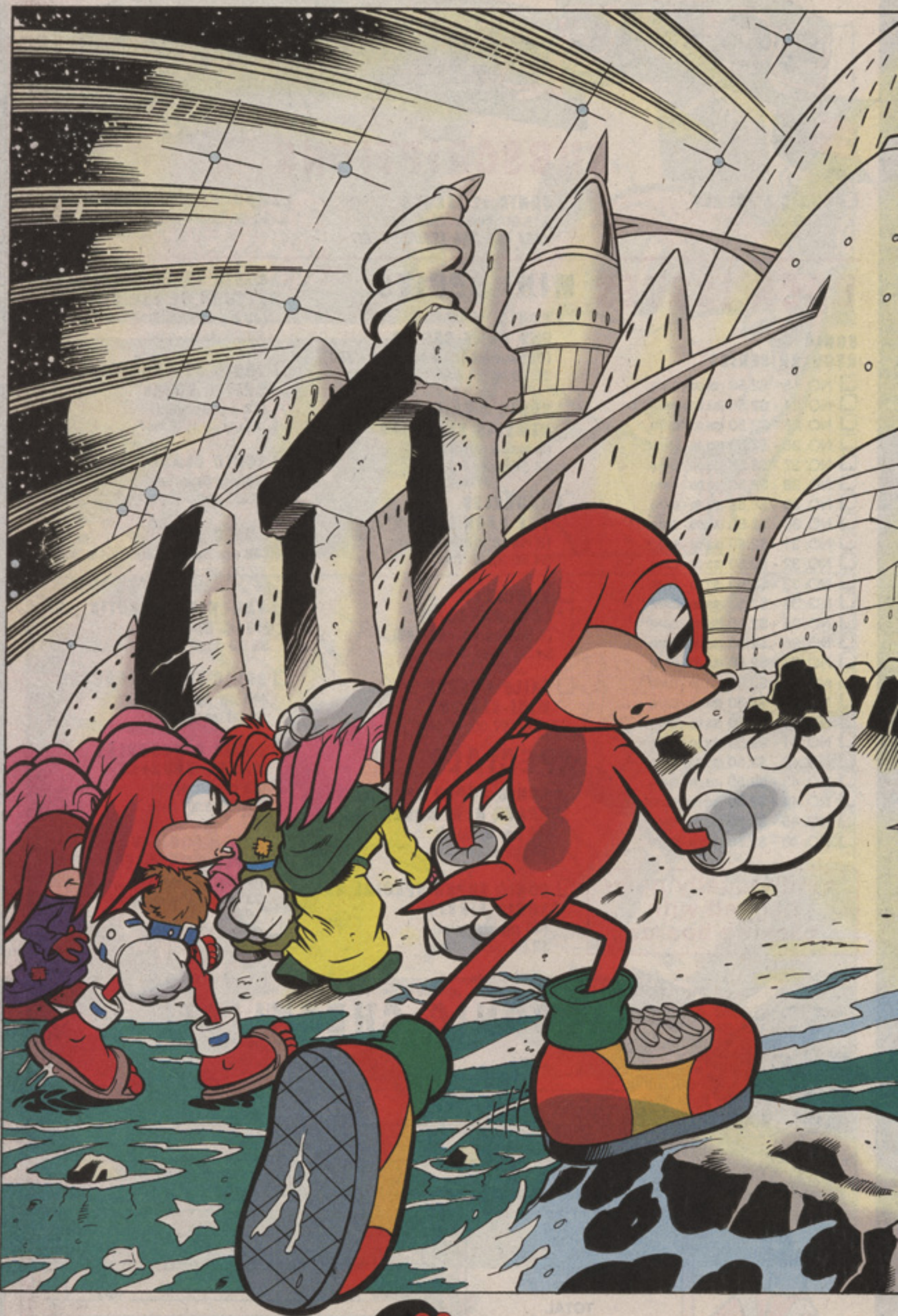
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I AM KNUCKLES--
GUARDIAN OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND AND
MITRE TO THE TRIBE
OF ARAKKIS!

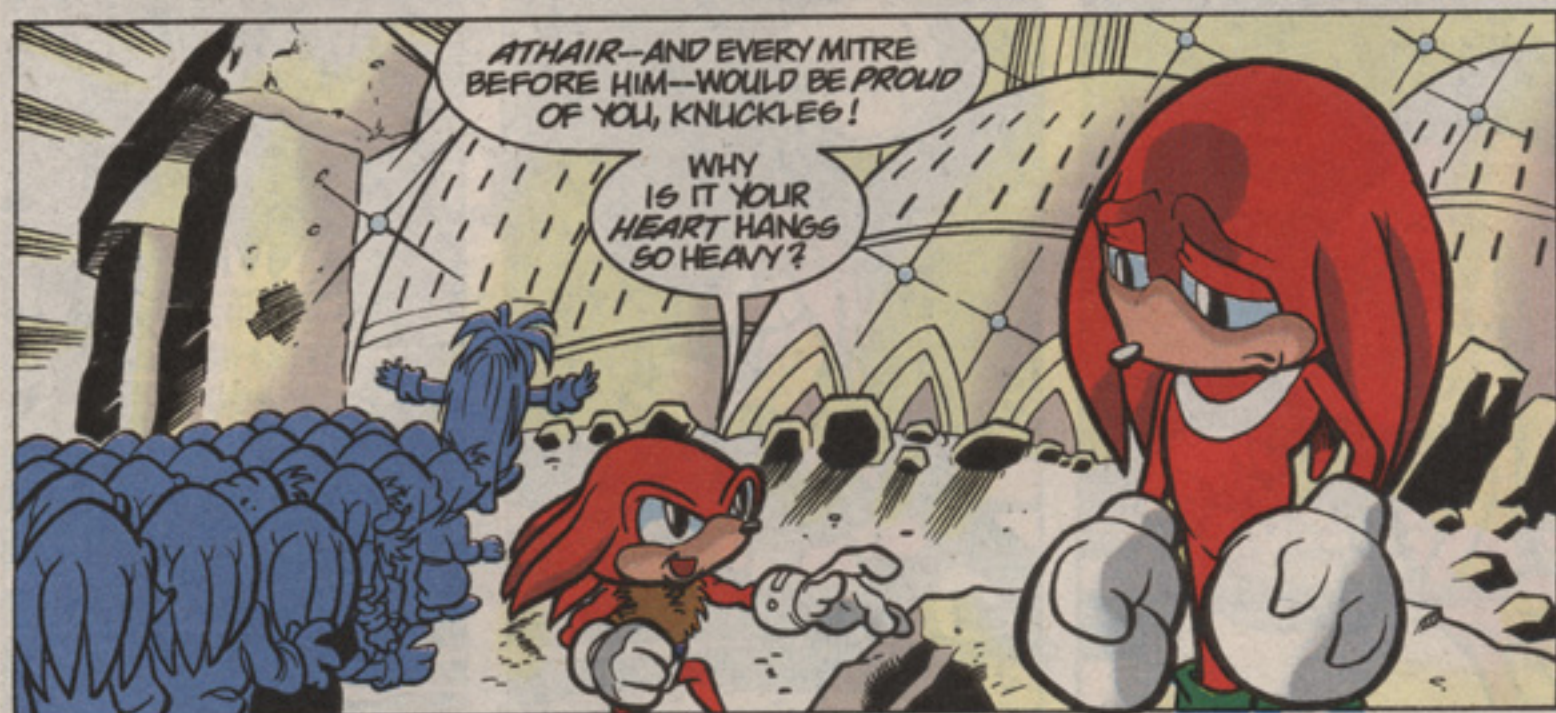
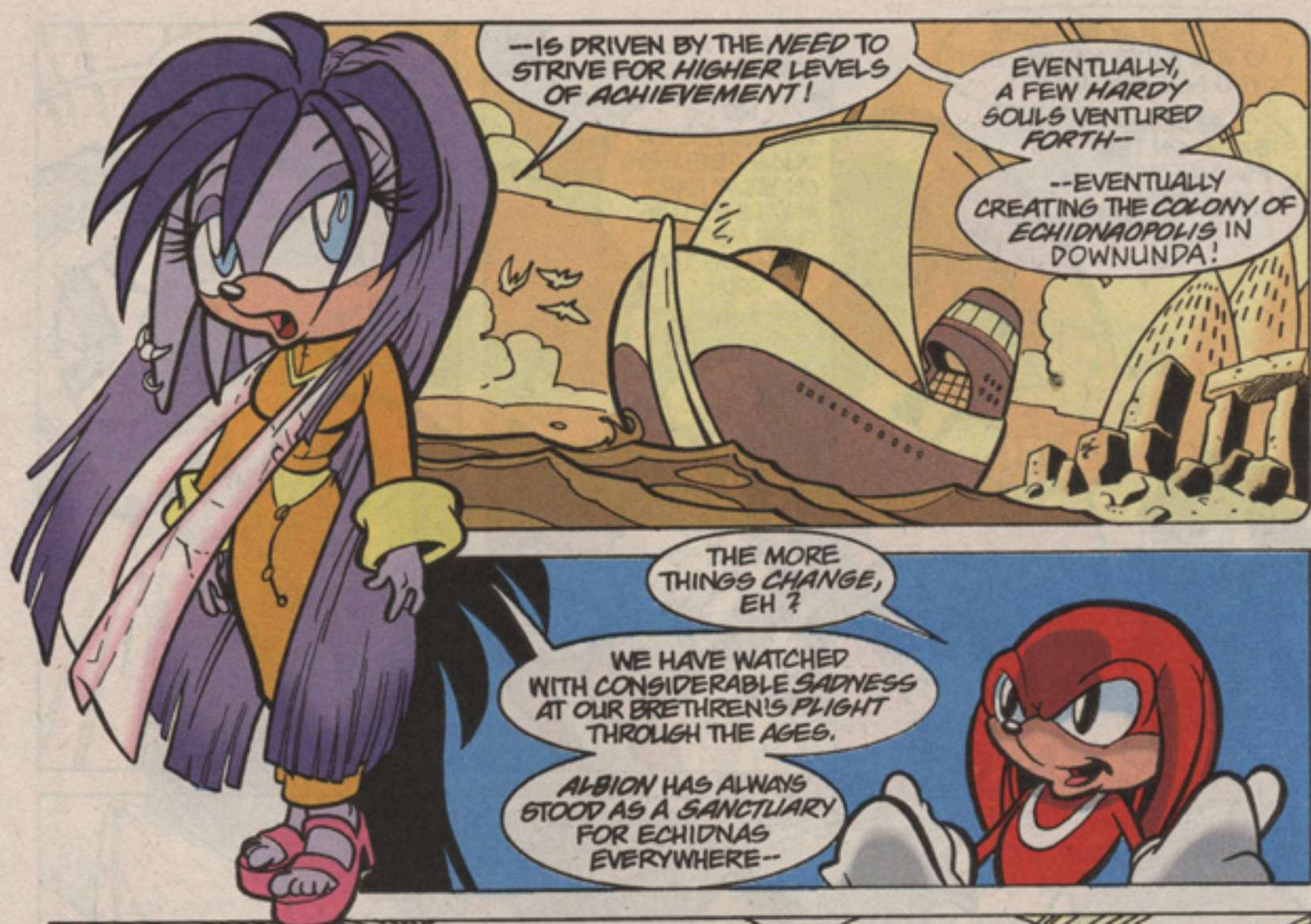
DID YOU SAY
MOTHERLAND?

YOU HEARD
CORRECTLY.

OVER A MILLENNIUM AGO,
THE INHABITANTS OF ALBION
ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS
AN ADVANCED CULTURE FAR
ABOVE ANY OTHER.

EVENTUALLY, OUR
ANCESTORS IN THEIR
WISDOM DECIDED TO
SECLUDE OUR SOCIETY FROM
THE SAVAGERY OF THE
REST OF THE WORLD!

ECHIDNA
NATURE,
HOWEVER--

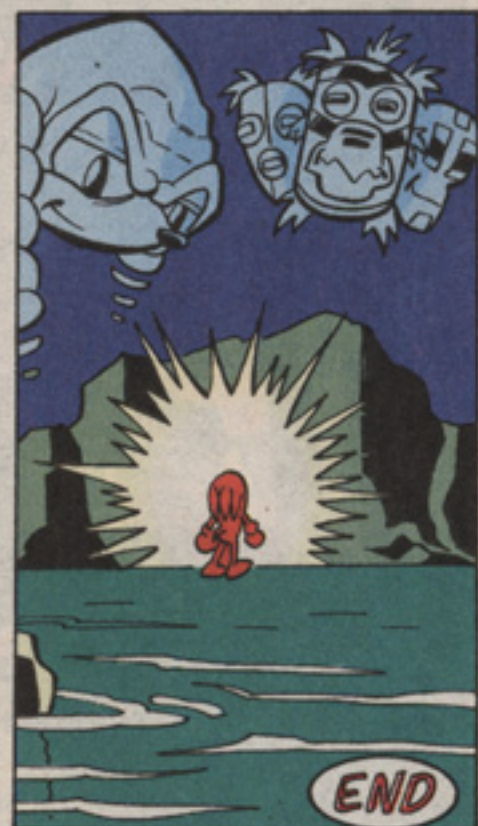
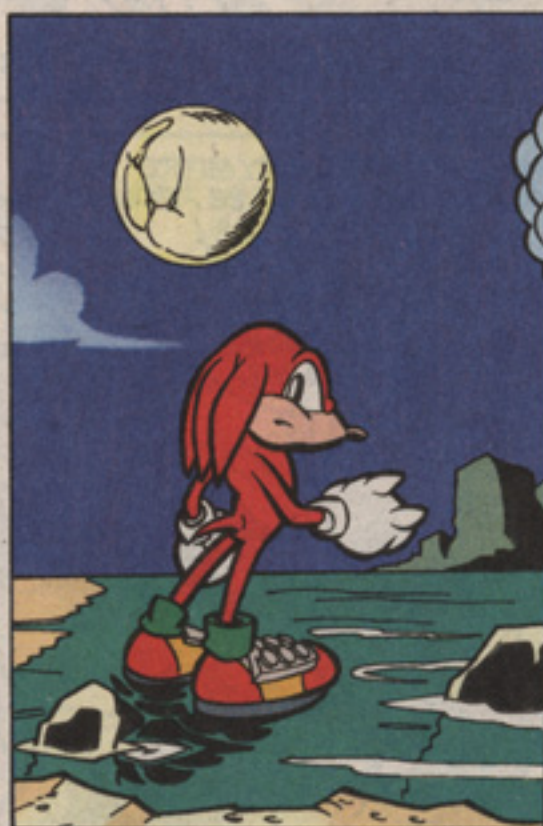
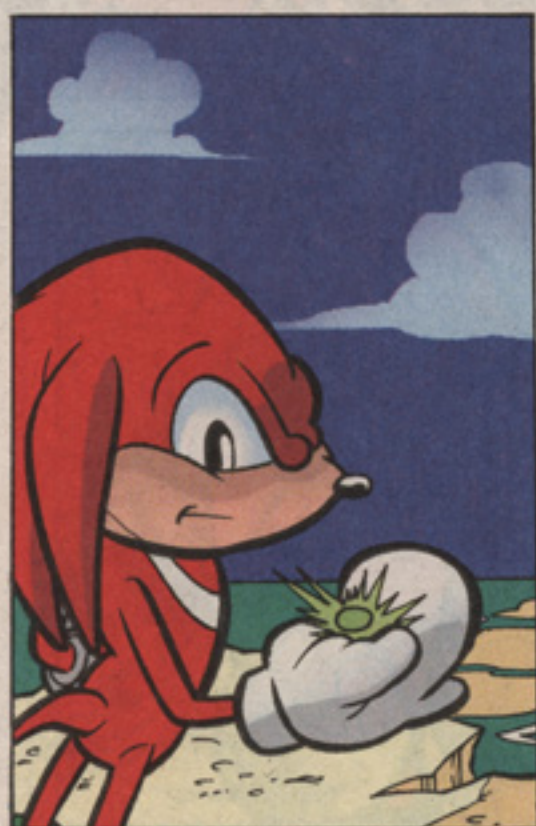


THIS MAY BE HOME
TO YOU GUYS, YANAR--BUT
IT'S NOT MY HOME!
I BELONG
BACK ON THE
FLOATING
ISLAND!

ATHAIR MUST HAVE
KNOWN YOU WELL!
HE
ANTICIPATED
SUCH FEELINGS
ON YOUR PART
AND LEFT THIS
FOR ME TO
PASS ON TO
YOU!

IT'S A
GUIDING STAR
GEM!
IS THAT
SO?

ATHAIR FELT YOU POSSESSED
THE INSIGHT REGARDING
IT'S USE!
AS I DO!
UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN, MY
FRIEND!
YOU HAVE
OUR LOVE AND
PRAYERS!



FISTFUL OF LETTERS



**KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #13
ON SALE APRIL 1998**



**SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #59
ON SALE MARCH 1998**

NEXT MONTH:

THE SPOTLIGHT OF THE NEXT THREE-ISSUE STORYARC FALLS ON NONE OTHER THAN **KNUCKLES'** FRIENDS: **THE CHAOTIX!** WITH KNUCKLES GONE, THE CHAOTIX ARE CALLED UPON TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS ON **THE FLOATING ISLAND**. YOU'LL MEET NEW FRIENDS AND NEW FOES AS WELL AS THE USUAL CAST OF CHARACTERS AS OUR HEROES INVESTIGATE AN INSIDIOUS PLOT AGAINST **ECHIDNAOPOLIS**. THIS ISSUE ALSO MARKS THE RETURN OF SOMEONE NOT DEALT WITH SINCE **KNUCKLES' CHAOTIX #1!** JOIN **KEN PENDERS, MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY** IN **"THE CHAOTIX CAPER!"** **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #13 ON SALE APRIL 1998!**

IN OTHER SEGA NEWS - IN TWO WEEKS: THE RETURN OF THE STRANGEST CHARACTERS TO EVER GRACE THE PAGES OF SONIC: **HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL!** NOT SEEN SINCE **SONIC #4**, AL & CAL ARE EVEN MORE INSANE THAN THEY EVER WERE. HOW DO **SONIC AND TAILS** FIT IN TO THIS STORY? LET'S JUST SAY THEY HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER BUT TO BE INVOLVED. STORY BY SONIC VETERANS **MIKE GALLAGHER AND ART MAWHINNEY**. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #59 ON SALE LATE MARCH 1998!**

AND IN THREE WEEKS: IN THE MAIN STORY... WITNESS THE STORY OF HOW TAILS GOT HIS FIRST SNEAKERS AND HOW SONIC SAVED THE DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AS A HERO AGAINST **ROBOTNIK**. BROUGHT TO YOU BY **STORYTELLERS TOM ROLSTON, ART MAWHINNEY AND JIM AMASH!** BUT THAT'S NOT ALL FOLKS, THERE ARE TWO MORE BONUS STORIES OF SONIC AND **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** THAT MUST NOT BE MISSED. WITH A COVER BY **SPAZ AND HARVO**, THIS BABY SCREAMS TO BE PART OF YOUR COLLECTION. **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #5: SONIC KIDS ON SALE APRIL 1998!**

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

FREDDY

P.S.: WRITER/ARTIST **KEN PENDERS** WILL BE APPEARING AT MEGA CON '98 AT THE ORLANDO EXPO CENTER ON MARCH 13-15, 1998!



**SONIC SUPER
SPECIAL #5: SONIC KIDS
ON SALE APRIL 1997**

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THANKS FOR
UNDERSTANDING!

Dear Knuckles,

I just found your comic series and was blown away! I love the storyline and the artwork is to die for! I knew there was a Sonic comic book but I didn't know you did. I was hooked even before I read it. It happened the moment my brother brought an issue home and explained to me what was going on in your series. Do you and Sonic ever see each other any more now that you've become so busy on The Floating Island?

Sarah McSwain (age 15)
Round Rock, TX

Thanks for the ultra kind words, Sarah. As you can see, my book is just as adventurous as Sonic's. More things will develop in future issues so keep reading. As you can see, I just had another meeting with everyone's favorite blue blur but who knows when I'll see him again.

Dear Knuckles,

I am in love with the "Knuckles The Echidna" series! I really admire you and have a few questions to boot: 1) Who is Jenna? Knuckles' father and grandfather mentioned her in KNUCKLES #5, page one and two. 2) Who did the art in that issue again? 3) If I help keep The Floating Island safe and clean, can I become a part of The Chaotix? 4) How could you be in SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #1: BATTLE ROYAL, SONIC #50 and in your own series all at the same time?

Megan "The real Ruby Echidna" Legge
(age 15)
Port Williams, NS
Canada

1) The person Knuckles' father, Locke and Knuckles' grandfather, Sabre were discussing is Sabre's wife, Jenna. 2) Knuckles' regular art team of Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy did that issue. 3) I consider anyone who reads my issue on a monthly basis to be an honorary member of The Chaotix.



4) Though they all printed around the same time, they did not all happen at the same time. The following is a rundown of my appearances in order of events: Sonic #46, Sonic Super Special #1- Battle Royal, Sonic #47-50, Knuckles #1-6, Sonic #53, Knuckles #7-9, Sonic #56, Knuckles #10-11, Sonic #58, Knuckles #12. Get it? Got it? Good.

Dear Knux,

I have the game Knuckles' Chaotix and have beaten the game with every member of The Chaotix. 1) In SONIC #36, specifically in the Knuckles solo story, it claimed that the Echidnas tore down Echidnaopolis at the time of Edmund. In KNUCKLES #5, Hawking claimed his use of the Hyper Zone Projector. Which is correct? 2) How could Sonic and Mighty be old friends? Didn't they just meet? 3) Are Heavy and Bomb still part of The Chaotix?

Jace Bandalin (age 13)
Novato, CA

1) The way the story was told to me, the Echidnas tore down their city. I wasn't told the truth about what really happened to Echidnaopolis until Hawking did in that very issue you mentioned. 2) It seems they met a long time ago. Look for an upcoming story in Sonic's comic to reveal the details of that meeting. 3) No. After we worked together in KNUCKLES' CHAOTIX #1, they decided to try to live a life of peace on The Floating Island. I have not heard from them since but learned that they will show up soon in Sonic's book.



Hey Knux,

I'm so glad you finally got your own comic series. I love it! Manny Galan's penciling is really great. Also I really liked the connecting cover illustrations for KNUCKLES #4-6. Anyway, I just have a few questions: 1) Has there ever been a female guardian of The Floating Island? 2) How old were you when your father entered The Forbidden Zone?

Tell Julie-Su I think she's very cool!

Marissa R. Barrio (age 15)
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I agree. I think Manny Galan's penciling really illustrates my adventures with style and flair. Thanks, Manny. 1) As I'm sure you found out in our last issue, Athair's mother was the first recorded female Guardian of The Floating Island. 2) I was nine when my father entered the Forbidden Zone.

**So until
next month,
stay cool!**

